

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 642

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ronald Keith McCormack on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Keith McCormack is one such estimable individual, who has taken his much-deserved retirement after serving with faith and probity in full-time ministry in the Church of the Nazarene for forty-one years; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Cleveland, Mr. McCormack was an Eagle Scout and served for three years in the ROTC, attaining the rank of major; upon graduating from high school, he received a full music scholarship to attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, his life took a different course, however, when he was chosen in the last draft call of the United States Army; it was while serving in Germany as an Army Personnel Specialist that he received and answered the call to be a minister of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Ron McCormack married the love of his life, Karla D. McCormack, in February 1973, and the couple moved to Biebelried, Germany, where together they developed a heart for the ministry, working on post, leading Bible studies in a coffeehouse ministry, and turning their home into a place of prayer, discipleship, fellowship, love, and home cooking; a church was formed that grew from zero to ninety congregants in the last nine months of their service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCormack was ordained in 1980 and, since that time, has served the Church of the Nazarene in a variety of capacities, including as District President NYI for five years and District Sunday School Chairman for five years; and

WHEREAS, he was senior pastor for twenty-two years in Jamestown, Kentucky; Louisville, Kentucky; and Estill Springs, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Ronald McCormack was elected District Superintendent for the East Tennessee District, and with his retirement, he will bring to a close twenty-one years of devoted service in this position; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure in the ministry, he has passionately preached church doctrine across his district, helped give women an opportunity to fulfill the call to ministry, mentored young ministers, and started new churches and Hispanic ministries; under his ministry, twenty-one new churches have been established and seven Hispanic ministries have taken root, up from zero in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCormack holds an associate degree in Biblical studies from Nazarene Bible College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Christian Education from Campbellsville University, and a Master of Arts degree in Religion from Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU); in 2010, TNU conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Divinity; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the abiding love, companionship, and support of his wife, Ronald McCormack has been blessed with the same from his children, Jamie (Kelly) and Kara; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ronald and Karla McCormack, both graduates of the School of Large Church Management and Certified Trainers in Dynamic Church Planting International, plan to continue supporting new church planters and encouraging and mentoring young pastors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable and devout career in the ministry, Ronald McCormack has evinced the utmost spirituality, ability, and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of his congregations; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are delighted to recognize this committed Christian leader for his service to his community and to the Church of the Nazarene; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Ronald Keith McCormack on the occasion of his retirement and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.